



Air Force Modeling & Simulation **STRATEGIC**

‘New Vector’ gets updated in 4 major areas

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ORLANDO, Fla. — In 1995 the Air Force published its first strategic plan to establish a vision for Modeling and Simulation, or M&S. Called “New Vector,” the plan was considered visionary at the time by DoD and the other Services.

Since that time, many of the initiatives remain valid, but unfulfilled and now new challenges have emerged.

As a result, senior leaders directed a new M&S strategic plan be developed, and the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation is doing just that. When published in the first quarter of fiscal year ‘05, it will provide Air Force decision makers, developers and warfighters the vision, strategy and tools to guide M&S resource modernization, develop M&S investment and implementation plans and measure progress.

While the plan is currently being staffed Air Force-wide, and adjustments to incorporate recommendations may occur, there are some significant changes from the “New Vector.” **First, and most important, is the new approach for orchestrating M&S planning, development and rapid delivery of future capability to the Warfighter. It’s now accomplished through four interdependent thrusts.** Each thrust supports the warfighter in different ways and times. Three of the thrusts directly support the Warfighter:

Warfighter Readiness focuses on putting the Warfighter in an

THRUSTS OF FOCUS

M&S Foundation
is an enabler and supports the foundations of the other three thrusts

Warfighter Readiness
improves decision making, skills, processes

Accelerated Acquisition
reduces time, resources required to provide materiel solutions

Emerging Warfighter Capabilities
focuses on developing future capabilities and force structure

PLAN 'NEW VECTOR'

environment to improve warfighting decision making, execution, skills and processes.

Accelerated Acquisition focuses on reducing time and resources required to provide material solutions to the Warfighter.

New and Emerging Warfighter Capabilities focuses on developing future capabilities and force structure.

The fourth thrust, **M&S Foundations**, is an enabler, which indirectly supports the Warfighter by supporting the other three M&S Thrusts. M&S Foundations focuses on integrating foundational capabilities needed to improve the usefulness, productivity, scalability and efficiency of M&S capabilities derived from the other three Thrusts.

Managing each Thrust focus area is an Integrated Process Team composed of Air Force organizations, DoD, Joint, other Services, Industry and Academia experts. Each Thrust IPT is provided senior Air Staff leadership, or "Champion" for guidance and advocacy.

The second major change is in the M&S vision: *"Rapidly meeting the nation's needs for Air and Space power through enhancement, creation and exploitation of new operating domains, warfighting capabilities and decision environments throughout all aspects of the global decision environment."* Building toward this global decision environment will significantly enhance the Air Force's ability to employ the world's most capable Air and Space forces for the Combatant Commander.

The third and fourth major changes are in the strategy. To guide high-level decision making, three equally weighted strategic tasks, aligned with DoD, Joint and Air Force objectives, will establish a clear path to focus, accelerate and achieve the AF M&S vision:

Strategic Task 1: *Operationalize M&S architecture and community to integrate, coordinate, advocate and rapidly deliver enhanced capabilities.* A sub-task focuses on the organizations, policies and people to rapidly build M&S capabilities for the Warfighter.

Strategic Task 2: *Create new and innovative hybrid decision environments that are persistent and flexible.*

This also focuses M&S capabilities toward a net-centric future.

Strategic Task 3: *Develop new and innovative M&S processes and applications.*

This focuses on improving and developing new M&S capabilities to stand-alone or plug into the global decision environment.

As the three strategic tasks provide a pathway to the new plan's M&S vision, a framework of interdependent components provides the engine to drive the strategy. Presently there are four, but these could change as the plan is fielded and matured. The four components (Key Decision Makers, Processes, People and Information Services) will provide a clear, steady state approach and tools to coordinate, integrate, and focus thrust activities.

The last major change is in the plan itself. It's a virtual document and provides a new approach for strategic planning, implementation and assessment.

Web enabled, the new plan will provide M&S professionals a single "working" document with hyperlinks to DoD, Joint and Air Force strategic planning guidance, processes and decision support tools.

This new capability will significantly improve their ability to enhance M&S investment decision making, architecting and resource modernization.

It also develops and assesses progress against M&S investment strategies, implementation plans and programs on-line, in real-time, from any location.

When fielded, the new plan will answer the Air Force Chief of Staff's call for new and visionary thinking by making M&S the way of doing business every day and delivering the very best capability for the warfighter.

View the plan at
<https://www2.afams.af.mil>

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